

Recovery Assistance for Southern Sri Lanka

(RASSL)

Award No. 386-A-00-05-0048



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2nd Quarterly Report
April 1 – June 30, 2005

Recovery Assistance for Southern Sri Lanka (RASSL)

2nd Quarterly Performance Report

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1. Background

The Recovery Assistance for Southern Sri Lanka (RASSL) program, funded by USAID for \$3,000,000, aims to provide direct assistance to an estimated 16,000 vulnerable people affected by the Tsunami of 26 December 2004 in the southern Sri Lankan districts of Galle and Matara, and indirectly benefit another 20,000 affected persons.

RASSL's overriding objective is:

To accelerate the process by which lives of the most affected population begin to return to normal.

CHF has now established two operational field offices in Galle and Matara Districts, and uses the skills and expertise of 6 international field staff and over 30 national staff in the implementation of this program. Two local partners, the Arthacharya Foundation and Project Galle 2005, are also actively engaged in implementing the program.

RASSL has three objectives that meet key needs of the affected population:

1. Provide acceptable shelter that allows the most vulnerable affected families (typically those now in school and temple shelters) privacy, reasonable comfort and a reusable building resource that can be utilized in housing construction or re-construction.
2. Increase incomes for the low-income affected population through dignified employment.
3. Quickly address key social and economic infrastructure needs of the community, emphasizing infrastructure that will allow children to quickly return to normal play activities, schooling, and other positive occupation.

2. Expected Results

Objective	Suggested Standard Indicators
1. <i>Provide acceptable shelter that allows the most vulnerable affected families privacy, reasonable comfort and a reusable building resource that can be utilized in housing construction or re-construction.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter accepted by beneficiaries. • Shelter as provided by CHF meets SPHERE standards. • Those needing immediate shelter receive it in weeks 2-6. • Entire target population receives shelter by week 24 of program • Sanitation meets SPHERE standards.
2. <i>Increase incomes for the low-income affected population through dignified employment.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of persons/days of employment created. • Beneficiaries consider employment dignified.
3. <i>Quickly address key social and economic infrastructure needs of the community, emphasizing infrastructure that will allow children to quickly return to normal play activities, schooling, and other positive occupation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure receives significant use. • Community agrees that infrastructure is important. • GoSL agrees that infrastructure is important. • 22 infrastructure projects completed. • Children use infrastructure for recreation. • Infrastructure increases play activity. • Infrastructure allows children to return to school. • Infrastructure reduces class sizes.

3. Program Implementation by CHF and its Implementing Partners

Beneficiary Selection

Beneficiary and site selection for the shelter interventions is ongoing, and are made in conjunction with the affected communities and local government. As a matter of process, CHF invites communities to nominate 'trustees' to act on the community's behalf to receive and help distribute materials. In addition, during public community meetings, CHF asks the community to nominate vulnerable families who cannot undertake shelter construction work themselves.

If affected families live beyond 100m of the government defined coastal strip, CHF prefers resettlement of the beneficiaries on their own land. In the case of displaced families previously living within the government enforced 'buffer zone,' CHF has encouraged their resettlement on the land of friends and relatives. The least optimal option is the resettlement of affected families in temporary or permanent camps.

Transitional Shelter Interventions:

To date, 795 basic shelters have been completed in Galle district, with an additional 60 under construction. In Matara District, 209 shelters have been completed with a further 50 under construction. Ninety percent of the RASSL shelters have been upgraded by supporting the USAID reinforced plastic sheeting with plywood board to provide additional security and shelter robustness for beneficiaries

Further planned upgrading activities include the provision of power and lights to every CHF supplied transitional shelter. This will be implemented during the third and final quarter of the program.



Figure 1: Latrine in Ambalangoda

Figure 2: Beneficiary Shelter in Ambalangoda

Water/Sanitation Interventions

CHF is currently implementing two forms of water/sanitation interventions:

1. Permanent responses where affected families are occupying their own land outside the Government imposed 100m coastal buffer zone
2. Temporary solutions to affected families occupying land within the 100m buffer zone, or living in temporary camps.

To date, over 130 latrine interventions have been completed, of which approximately 30 are temporary toilets. Access to water has been restored in a series of RASSL camps and cluster returnee communities.

CHF has launched an initiative that will enable all their beneficiaries to have direct access to fresh water for most of the year. This initiative involves the installation of gutters and a 500-liter PVC storage tank to every family that has received a transitional shelter from CHF. The gutters and tanks can easily be removed from transitional shelters and attached to a permanent shelter once the family moves out of the transitional shelters. CHF has trained a number of teams to install the gutters and the first installations will take place in July 05.

CHF has been proactive in implementing and encouraging the adherence of SPHERE Humanitarian Standards, and following the principles of the recognized Government Transitional Shelter Guidelines prepared by the UNHCR Shelter Working Group. CHF is also a current active member of the Sri Lanka Shelter and Settlement Advocacy Forum.

Livelihoods Projects

Shelter beneficiaries are given a construction allowance for their transitional shelter units (200ft²). Completion of all elements for the shelters is broken into individual elements calculated at a cash-for-work rate of LKR 400 per day for unskilled labor, LKR 500 per day for skilled labor, with a total value of LKR 3,500 (\$US35) per unit. The beneficiaries are given the choice to undertake the work themselves, or to contract local skilled/unskilled labor for completion of the work. As such, the shelter completion is also considered a 'cash-for-work' activity. CHF undertakes all required work for identified vulnerable families, e.g., households with no able bodied men available.

CHF and their implementing partner Project Galle has also embarked on a number of cash for work projects to assist in the restoration of the coastal storm-water drainage systems by reconstructing and cleaning a large number of drainage channels that has been damaged or destroyed by the tsunami. Labor teams are normally recruited from the communities that are located closest to the work sites.

CHF's implementing partner, the Arthacharya Foundation has also been implementing livelihoods projects in Galle and Matara. Ongoing livelihoods interventions by Arthacharya include:

- Replacement of livelihood loan assets including sewing and bicycle repair equipment lost in the tsunami and
- Establishment of new Community Based Organizations (CBOs) from affected communities.
- Engaging communities to effectively manage solid waste through distribution of barrels for home composting, and
- Training on home gardening.

Quick Impact Projects [QIPS]:

To date CHF and its implementing partners have completed a number of QIPS programs that varies from reconstructing roads to replacing playground equipment for children. Local authorities have been closely involved in determining the necessity for certain projects and to ensure that all approvals for implementation are in place. A number of community and infrastructure programs are still ongoing.

Arthacharya and CHF have distributed relocation items including kitchen kits, flasks and flashlights. While mattresses and water containers have also been distributed by CHF, many essential needs of beneficiaries for NFIs were largely met by other donor/implementing agencies during the early stages of the tsunami response. CHF is now surveying unmet needs, including provision of basic furniture, cooking equipment basic tool kits etc.



Figure 3 Women at work

4. Performance

CHF

CHF is on track to reach their objectives in assisting the tsunami affected communities. With the exception of a few late interventions, most basic shelters have been completed. Upgrades including cooking areas, additional space for families with 7+ members, and provision of basic electrification is currently underway

Delays in obtaining approvals from local authorities for infrastructure projects have resulted in some of the projects falling slightly behind schedule. CHF is however confident that these projects will be completed before the program end date of September 15, 2005.



Figure 4 Community Center in Viyalya Transitional Camp

Implementing Partners

Arthacharya Foundation has a budget of \$200,000, is ahead of schedule with their program and plans to complete all activities by the middle of August 2005. They are currently identifying short-term tsunami assistance projects that can be completed by September 2005. These proposals will be presented to CHF in July 2005.

Project Galle 2005, is on track with their project of drainage rehabilitation and tent exchange and will complete their assignment on or ahead of schedule.

Matching Contributions:

A match contribution of \$80,000 provided by the U.S. law firm Piper Rudnick has been utilized for additional procurement of shelter materials and for extended livelihood interventions under the RASSL program.

Beneficiary households and local government officials have provided significant in kind contributions by contributing significant amounts of time to strategizing interventions and beneficiary selection.

Community contribution has in many cases been disappointing. Affected communities have multiple opportunities to receive humanitarian assistance and are often not forthcoming with match contributions of time and labor, and are guilty of inaccurate claims for assistance. An element of beneficiary fatigue and willingness to contribute has set in with many affected communities. Government changes in policy, lack of clarity and bureaucracy have been impeding elements to the rapid implementation of the program

Table of Program Outputs:

RASSL TOTAL OUTPUTS - FEBRUARY to JUNE 2005				
	Status	Galle	Matara	Total
<u>Shelter activities</u>				
new shelters	Completed	795	209	1004
	In Progress	20		20
Upgrades - gutters	Completed	665	196	861
	In Progress	9	0	9
- electrical	Completed	0	40	40
	In Progress	0	0	0
Extensions	Completed	0	0	0
	In Progress	0	0	0
kitchen units	Completed	19	3	22
	In Progress	20	28	48
<u>Watsan Activities</u>				
sanitation solutions - toilets	Completed	102	35	137
	In Progress	58	9	67
- showers	Completed	32	0	32
	In Progress	0	0	0
Water storage tanks	Completed	2	0	2
	In Progress	0	0	0
Well rehabilitation	Completed	2	0	2
	In Progress	0	0	0

	Status	Galle	Matara	Total
<u>QIPs activities</u>				
storm water drainage clearance	Completed	18	0	18
	In Progress	7	1	8
Roads reconstruction	Completed	2	1	3
	In Progress	0	0	0
Schools and play grounds	Completed	1	3	4
	In Progress	0	3	3
community centers	Completed	0	1	1
	In Progress	1	1	2
Transitional camp upgrades	Completed	0	1	1
	In Progress	0	0	0
crematorium renovation	Completed	1	0	1
	In Progress	0	0	0
Tent swaps	Completed	244	15	259
	In Progress	0	0	0
Lamp post installation	Completed	350	100	450
	In Progress	0	0	0
Bus stop shelter supplied	Completed	12	0	12
	In Progress	0	0	0
Train schedule board at station	Completed	1	0	1
	In Progress	0	0	0
Compost manufacturing kits	Completed	655	350	1005
	In Progress	0	0	0
CBO's formed or mobilized	Completed	0	18	18
	In Progress	0	0	0
relocation kits supplied	Completed	470	408	878
	In Progress	0	0	0
Survey projects	Completed	0	1	1
	In Progress	0	0	0
tool kit distribution	Completed	0	54	54
	In Progress	0	0	0
micro loans – MDCCI	Completed	0	50	50
	In Progress	0	0	0
environment clean-up	Completed	0	0	0
	In Progress	1	0	1
cash grants for livelihood tools	Completed	66	25	91
	In Progress	0	0	0
first aid kits	Completed	1500	0	1500
	In Progress	0	0	0

5. Statement of Work

The Sri Lankan government has reduced its estimated shelter needs in January 2005 of 23,003 damaged and destroyed homes for Galle (14,982) and Matara District (8,021), to a current requirement determined by UNHCR and implementing organizations of 12,137 affected families (7,284 in Galle District, 4,853 Matara District), a proportion of which are accommodated in host families/staying with relatives. With approximately 30 shelter actors also active in Galle and Matara Districts, there are significantly more resources at hand to address this reduced need than was anticipated immediately following the 26th of December 2004 tsunami.

The value of interventions has also increased from \$US250 in materials per shelter unit¹ to \$450 for materials required by the Government Transitional Accommodation Program (TAP) requirements and in accordance with other Sri Lanka transitional shelter implementing agencies.

Approximately 1,000 transitional shelter units are now complete, while an additional 100+ are under construction. Due to upgraded transitional shelter standards and the Government of Sri Lanka's reevaluation of shelter needs in Southern Sri Lanka, CHF foresees a need for only 1,200 transitional shelters in Galle and Matara. The final number of target shelters will be determined after consultation with USAID/OFDA.

The RASSL proposal addressed shelter interventions in two phases. During Phase 1, CHF would build 500 emergency shelter units, while In Phase 2, CHF would provide 3,000 transitional shelter units. Due to the immense outpouring of tents from multiple donor agencies in January and February, there was no immediate need for the provision of additional emergency shelter. Therefore, CHF is now utilizing the resources of the Phase 1 intervention to upgrade the tents occupied by IDPs living in temporary camps. Because of heat and drainage difficulties, these tents are not comfortable or suitable for the IDPs. This intervention is implemented through a local partner, Project Galle 2005.

¹ As determined by the Sri Lanka Shelter Working Group standard set on 10 January 2005